



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

February 11, 2013

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV or fax (202) 395-5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, D.C. 20250-7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720-8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

*Billing Code 3410-15

Rural Utilities Service

TITLE: Broadband Initiatives Program

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0572-0142

SUMMARY OF COLLECTION: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) appropriated \$2.5 billion of budget authority for establishing the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP). The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) established the BIP which may extend loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas.

NEED AND USE OF THE INFORMATION: Successful application award recipients will execute loan/grant documents prepared by the Agency. Each recipient and each contractor engaged by the recipient must provide the total amount of Recovery Act funds received and that were expended or obligated to projects or activities. Recipients and contractor must also provide the name, description, evaluation of the completion status and an estimate of the number of jobs created and the number of jobs retained by the project or activity. Recipients of funding will be required to submit an annual CPA Audit report; adopt a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles System of Accounts and develop and maintain an index of records. Without the requested information, RUS could not determine whether applicants meet the requirements that the Recovery Act establishes for BIP financing.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Business or other for-profit

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS: 225

FREQUENCY OF RESPONSES: Recordkeeping; Reporting: Quarterly; Annually;

TOTAL BURDEN HOURS: 12,000

*Billing Code 3410-15

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[FR Doc. 2013-03536 Filed 02/14/2013 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 02/15/2013]